

Serial No. 10/664,117

Yuan

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of original claims 2 through 5, and hence claim 1, as amended, actually is claim 5 presented in independent form.

Likewise, claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 9, 10 and 11, and hence claim 8, as amended, actually represents claim 11 rewritten in independent form.

Since the Examiner has already indicated that claims 5 and 11 were allowable subject to being rewritten in independent form, and since amended claims 1 and 8 now represent claims 5 and 11 in independent form, the allowance of these two claims is thought to be in order and is courteously solicited.

Newly written claims 14 through 17 are also thought to be allowable for the following reasons. Claim 14, the only new independent claim being presented, clearly defines applicants' novel and unique locking means.

Specifically, claim 14 recites the relationship between the base member and the lid member that form the completed box, the critical feature being that when the lid member is swung to its closed position, as illustrated most clearly in Figs. 7 and 8 of the drawings, the wall section of the lid member that has the opening 24b therein is in co-planar alignment with wall section 18 of the base member. Thus, when locking member (or removable hanger) 16 is in its operative mounted position, it spans the two co-planar wall sections, as illustrated most clearly in Fig. 18, which prevents the lid member from swinging to its open position. Such opening movement of the lid member cannot be accomplished until the locking member has been disengaged and removed from its assembly with the closed box.

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None of the references of record, including the Lotrous et al. patent which the Examiner relied upon in rejecting most of the original claims, teach or suggest the structural combination now clearly set forth in claim 14. Although Lotrous does show means for locking a display box, the highly sophisticated two-step locking means of Lotrous do not even come remotely close to applicants' newly claimed structure. Specifically, there is no teaching in Lotrous or any of the other prior art of record of a display box having a lid that is swingable between an open and closed position wherein the lid, when in its closed position, has a wall section that is co-planar to a wall section of the base portion of the box. It is this co-planar relationship that permits the relatively simple locking means utilized by applicant to effectively achieve its desired locking function. It is this relationship which permits the locking plate to span the co-planar wall sections so that when mounted in its operative locking position, the lid is prevented from pivoting to its open position.

Thus, claim 14 patentably defines over the cited references and should be found to be allowable. Dependent claims 15 through 17 are allowable for the same reasons plus the additional features set forth in these claims, it being noted that claim 15 defines the locking means as a plate-like element having a pair of spaced tabs releasably engageable with a pair of openings, one of which is located on each co-planar wall section. Claim 16 is more specific as to the structural details of the releasable engagement between the locking means and the box, while claim 17 recites the structure by which the locking means also functions as a hanger.

In summarizing, amended claims 1 and 8 have already been indicated as being allowable, while newly presented claims 14 through 17 are also allowable for the reasons above discussed. None of the references of record, taken singly

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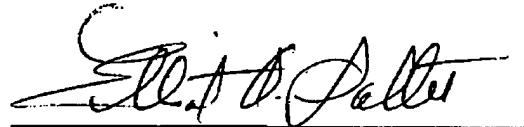
or in any valid combination thereof, teach or suggest the structural combination covered by new claim 14 or claims 15 through 17 which depend therefrom.

It is therefore thought that this application is now ready for issue, and such action is courteously solicited.

Please note that applicant Yuan's correct name is CAO YUAN, and that Yuan is his last name.

PTO is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof or credit any overpayment to our account #19-0120.

Respectfully submitted,



Elliot A. Salter
Reg. No. 17,486

SALTER & MICHAELSON
321 South Main Street
Providence RI 02903
Tel : 401.421.3141
Fax : 401.861.1953
email : esalter@saltermichaelson.com